



Resilience Grants

At the Evanston Community Foundation (ECF), we work to support a just and resilient network that strengthens our community. Our grant opportunities reflect this commitment. These grants allow the Evanston Community Foundation to be responsive to evolving community needs. Our grant processes:

Are grounded by our organizational mission and strategic plan	Align with our ongoing commitment to advancing racial equity	Prioritize supportive partnerships
---	--	------------------------------------

We invite applicants to visit our website to learn more about the Evanston Community Foundations [mission](#) and [strategic plan](#).

We understand that preparing and submitting an application is an investment of your time and resources. **Please note that we are not able to fund all requests through this grant opportunity and cannot guarantee funding to any applicant.**

While this grant opportunity is intended to provide support as outlined in this Request for Proposal (RFP), under unique circumstances ECF may restrict grants to maintain compliance with internal policies and commitment to stewarding funds for charitable purposes. Should this situation arise for your organization or group at any time during the application process, an ECF staff member will reach out to you for more information.

Please note, this RFP is designed to be responsive to evolving community needs. The eligibility requirements and parameters for this grant opportunity are subject to change.

Thank you for your interest in this ECF grant opportunity.

About this Funding Opportunity

This grant opportunity provides **up to \$15,000**.

For this grant, we prioritize applications from both nonprofit organizations and grassroots community groups that:

- Address a systemic inequity in the Evanston community
- Show a strong commitment to racial equity in mission, vision, values, and work
- Significantly serve and prioritize resources for the Evanston community

ECF encourages applications from organizations and groups that are led by, for, and with Black, Brown Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and intersecting systemically marginalized identities.

Organizations or groups may be awarded up to one Resilience Grant in a 12-month period.

Eligibility: Who can apply

The following eligibility criteria are included below to help you evaluate if you are eligible for this grant opportunity. All interested applicants will complete an eligibility quiz prior to completing the brief application. Please review the following information carefully before applying.

Part 1 - Eligibility

Applicants must fit in one of the following categories:

Nonprofit Organizations:	Grassroots Community Groups:
501c3 organizations, 501c6 organizations, and community organizations fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 nonprofit organization.	Any group of community members working together to address a community need. These groups have no 501c3, 501c6 or fiscal sponsorship.

Part II – Grant Purpose

All Resilience Grant requests must align with one or more of the following categories of need:

- Addressing an unexpected loss of funds occurring after January 1, 2025 (government, private, or other significant funding streams that has impacted operations)
- Providing support (such as Know Your Rights education or legal assistance) to mitigate the harmful impact of mass deportations in the Evanston Community
- Convenings to organize multiple community partners to respond or create shared resources to avoid or manage a crisis in the Evanston Community
- Established mutual aid services and cash assistance programs. This could include, but is not limited to mutual aid or cash assistance programs that support:
 - Immigration documentation fees and legal services
 - Access to basic human needs
 - Items required to avoid or manage a crisis

- Healthcare fees for those who have lost coverage unexpectedly or are not eligible for coverage due to immigration status
- Offer Crisis Counseling services or emergency mental health support/first aid

If you need support assessing if your request aligns with these categories or if you have a request that does not fall into these categories but that you think aligns with the intention of the grant opportunity, please reach out to Director of Programs - Grantmaking, Jenna Beltrano beltrano@evanstonforever.org

Part III – Additional Requirements

Your nonprofit organization or grassroots community group must also:

- Have an Evanston address and serve the Evanston community through their work and mission
If you need support assessing if your organization or group meets this requirement, please reach out to Director of Programs - Grantmaking, Jenna Beltrano beltrano@evanstonforever.org
- Must have been awarded at least 1 successful grant from the Evanston Community Foundation within the past 4 years (2021 – 2025).
- Must be in existence and operating for at least 1-year.
- Have an active status and maintain compliance with all 501c3 or 501c6 IRS Tax Code requirements throughout the application process if the lead applicant is a nonprofit organization or using a fiscal sponsor.

A note about collaborations

If this request is a collaboration between multiple community partners, at least one of the collaborating partners must fulfil the eligibility criteria as outlined in the request for proposal (RFP) and submit the Resilience Grant application as the lead applicant.

If you are considering an organizational restructuring such as a merger or acquisition as part of a collaboration request, please reach out to Director of Programs - Grantmaking, Jenna Beltrano beltrano@evanstonforever.org to discuss further before applying.

Funding Guidelines

Your nonprofit organization or grassroots community group can request up to \$15,000. There is a brief report required for this grant opportunity 6-months after the decision date. A grant agreement will be collected at the time of the award.

What this grant opportunity will not fund:

- [Endowments](#)
- Fundraising or sponsorship of one-time events
- Scholarships
- Requests that only benefit a person and is not part of a larger group effort that benefits the Evanston community

- Religious or faith-based activities or proselytizing
- Businesses or for-profit entities

How to Apply

You must submit all application materials through ECF's online grant system by the predetermined deadline.

Your nonprofit organization or grassroots community group can submit application materials at any time while the grant period is open. Please view the calendar below for all important application dates and deadlines:

Important Dates

Application Open	Monday, July 14, 2025
Application Due	Monday, July 28, 2025 at 11:59PM
Grant Awards Announced	Monday, September 22, 2025

The ECF Programs Team is available to support your organization or group throughout the application process:

1:1 Consultation with ECF Program Staff

Virtual One-on-one Consultations with ECF Program Staff

(English and Spanish – Zoom)

Schedule at the following link: <https://calendly.com/beltrano/2025-resilience-grant-1-1-consultations>

General Assistance

If you would need a computer to use or assistance at any point throughout the application process, please reach out to Director of Programs - Grantmaking, Jenna Beltrano beltrano@evanstonforever.org

In the case that funding is not approved

Please note that we are not able to fund all requests through this grant opportunity and cannot guarantee funding to any applicant. ECF will offer multiple cycles of this Resilience grant opportunity until all funds are allocated. Please refer to our website at evanstonforever.org for updated information. ECF staff will not be offering post-decision feedback meetings as part of this process.